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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 23, 2023

The Honorable John Johnson  
President  
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians  
Post Office Box 67  
Lac du Flambeau, WI, 54538

Dear President Johnson,

Earlier this month, the tribal leadership blocked access to four town roads: Annie Sunn Lane, Center Sugarbush Lane, East Ross Allen Lake Lane, and Elsie Lake Lane. The council's decision to take this unprecedented action is putting the health, safety, and well-being of dozens of town residents at risk.

Tribal officials have publicly cited a right-of-way dispute as justification for cutting off access to these vital roads in the dead of winter. But with each passing day, these actions look less like a negotiation, and more like an extortion racket.

For several weeks, the tribal council has attempted to scapegoat others, including the town and the title company, for this escalating standoff. However, the plain fact of the matter is that it is the tribal council and their Minneapolis attorney – not the town or the title company – that chose to erect these irresponsible and illegal roadblocks.

If tribal leaders were truly interested in achieving a mutually beneficial outcome in this dispute, why engage in this kind of brinksmanship? Why demand a \$20 million ransom payment from vulnerable town residents?

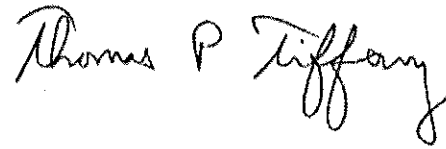
Rather than working in the spirit of cooperation to address the situation, tribal officials and their lawyers have fueled tension and distrust among neighbors in what appears to be a shakedown attempt. This is even more disappointing when one considers that the Lac du Flambeau have received more than \$218 million in federal funds since 2013.

Like most area residents, I want to see a resolution that addresses the concerns of all parties. However, this will not happen so long as the tribal government continues to block open access to these roads. In fact, the longer the roadblocks remain in place, the more likely policymakers will be to pursue a legislative option.

I hope you will reconsider your current position and join me in pressing the Bureau of Indian Affairs to produce the existing appraisals of these rights-of-way so that legitimate negotiations can begin in earnest.

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas P. Tiffany". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Tom Tiffany  
Member of Congress